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REPORT

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The Power Plant "Matra"

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1. Beginning in 1897 and during the first years of World War II there was a serious shortage of power in Budapest. The government and the Municipal Works of Budapest decided to erect a new power plant. Their existing main power plant, Kelenfold, was obsolete and very disadvantageously located in respect to coal supply. Therefore the new power plant was located at Lomnici, a village about four kilometers north of Hatvan. The distance between the power plant and Budapest is about 65-70 kilometers. A new concrete road connects Hatvan with Budapest.
2. The adjacent coal mines (named Petofi banya) were owned at that time by the Salgotarjani Collieries Co Ltd, one of the outstanding coal companies of the country. The Municipal Works and the Salgotarjani have made a fifty year contract concerning the coal supply.
3. The shareholders were the Municipal Electric Works of Budapest and the Hungarian Government, represented by the Royal Ministry for Industry. There was no foreign interest involved.
4. The construction of the power plant and the transmission line (100 thousand volts) began in July 1940. However, the difficulties and the shortage of raw materials caused a delay, so the plant did not produce power during the war.
5. In 1945 the Soviets dismantled one complete turbine unit. This unit was never returned to the power plant. After the war the forced heavy industry program of the government needed more and more power, therefore the reconstruction of the plant began in 1948. The first units to produce power began operations about 1950. The plant is still under construction.
6. In April 1949, the turbo-generators, which were made by Ganz, burned out on a trial run. This was caused by faulty construction plans which had cables running under the boilers. The boilers overflowed, shorting the cables, which caused the turbines to burn out.

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- 2 -

Personnel

7. The number of employees, including the personnel for the maintenance of the transmission lines, is about 600. The plant works three shifts with about 200 people engaged in the production of power. The remaining 400 people look after the maintenance of the power plant and the transmission lines. No foreign personnel are employed at the plant. The percentage of female employees is negligible and they work only on clerical jobs. The number of skilled workers is about 40% of the total. There is no surplus manpower and no special training facilities exist.
8. A very fine workers' quarters is located about one kilometer northwest of the plant. All the workers are housed in company-owned houses. There are department stores, a theater and other accommodations for the laborers connected with the new quarters. The living quarters are adequate.
9. The plant is controlled by the local Communist Party. The trade unions have only formal rights and they are also controlled by the Party.

The Plant

10. The designed total capacity of the plant is 150,000 kw.
11. The boiler house contains 10 boilers. (Original plan called for eight; there was a later decision to expand.) Steam pressure of the boilers is 1400 psia. Their capacity is 85 tons steam per hour. They are vertical tube boilers and they utilize pulverized fuel. Each boiler has its own individual coal grinding mill. The boilers were built and installed by the Hungarian firm, Ganz & Co, Budapest. This firm uses the patents and designs of the German Babcock-Wilcox. The boilers are equipped with superheaters, economisers and air preheaters. The temperature of superheating is about 500 degrees Celsius (centigrade). The temperature of the preheated air is between 250 and 300 degrees Celsius.
12. In the turbine plant there are five steam turbine units. The steam turbines are manufactured by the firm Lang L Co, Budapest and the turbo-generators are the products of the Ganz Co, Budapest.
13. The steam turbines are built after the patterns and designs of the [] firm. [] The capacity of each of the turbo units is 30 thousand kw (name plate), 10,000 volts, power factor 0.75.
14. The turbogenerators have a voltage of 10 thousand V, power factor 0.75. There is a transformer station with a voltage of 115 thousand V. This voltage was adapted in 1950 for the Hungarian national grid as normal. The transmission line, which is a section of the national grid, connects the plant with Budapest.
15. At the present time 1954 [] about seven of the boilers and three of the turbines are in operation. The equipment is brand new and therefore is in excellent mechanical condition.
16. The plant produces at the present time about 350 to 400 million kw per year. Further expansion of the plant is possible. Without any difficulty the capacity can be raised to about 200 thousand kw. The plans for expansion depend entirely on the adjacent Petoft mines as a coal supplier. The coal is transported by overhead cableways to the silos of the plant. [] there are some serious difficulties with coal mining. The coal deposit estimates have also been exaggerated hence, [] this plant will not be expanded.
17. The center of power production will move to the Borsod district where in the next five years two large power plants will be erected.
18. The coal is a sort of lignite. The heating value of the run-of-mine coal is about 6500 - 6800 btu per kilogram. The coal is exceedingly inflammable. [] The coal can be stored in six foot layers. The plant requires four thousand metric tons of coal per day. The standard capacity of the cable cars supplying the plant is 0.6 metric tons. Coal was temporarily shipped to this plant from the Borsod mines in 1950 due to a catastrophe in the Petoft mines.
19. There are some small rivers here for water supply but with limited water reserves. Therefore there is an artificial cooling lake here about two kilometers square.
20. The plant is guarded by the AVH. These guards are not on the payroll of the plant. Passes are required to enter the plant and one must be escorted by plant personnel at all times. There are no security areas within the plant that require special passes.

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